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# 1989

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## - *Nurse Dubbin Looks Back* -

# 5,000 Infants, Boa Constrictor

By NOREEN MARCH

How would you like to be private nurse to a lady whose favorite pet was a boa constrictor? How about having to squeeze the nose of a London actress in order to administer a dose of castor oil? Better still, how would you like to assist at the birth of approximately 5,000 babies? Mabel Dubbin has.

The lady, now retired and a guest at The Cove, was born in England, May 10, 1884. Upon completion of her nurses' training in London she arrived in Ottawa, April, 1914. After taking a three-month course with the Victoria Order of Nurses, she was posted to Whitney Pier. Bitterly disappointed not being posted to Western Canada where her two brothers were, she arrived in Sydney.

On call, day and night for 32 years, she visited the sick and infirm, helped with post-operative care, and often when a doctor was not available she brought a goodly number of babies into the world. Nurse Dubbin never looked back.

"These were the happiest days of my life," she said.

The name "Nurse Dubbin" became as familiar locally as that of "Ma Perkins" or Kate Aitken.

Miss Dubbin recalled the days when a new mother had to stay in bed nine, yes, nine days after the birth of a child. On the eighth day the mother was granted a real bonus — a second pillow so she could be propped up. The best pick-me-up for a brand new mother "a good hot cup of tea," said Nurse Dubbin. Sometimes when a delivery was long or complicated it was nothing for the VON nurse to remain, sometimes with the doctor, at the home of the patient all night.

Prior to the birth of a child the VON nurse gave prenatal instructions to the expectant mother and was in touch with her constantly. Miss Dubbin said, "I never wanted to miss a birth, I felt I owed a small part of each and every baby I helped deliver."

Nurse Dubbin believed, and still does, that a newborn infant should be kept as warm as possible. When a hot water bottle was not available she said, "I asked for six bricks, they were heated in the oven, three were wrapped in a blanket and placed in the cot with the baby. The bricks were rotated and this process continued for several weeks."

rooms of the Cove and visits with friends on occasion. She has a very good memory, a keen sense of humor, and last but not least, she is a very gracious woman.

Nurse Dubbin has written a book based on her experiences. The manuscript is in the McConnell Memorial Library, Sydney.

Here are a few commendations given by some of her former patients:

"When she was around you knew you were in good hands."

"She was just as capable as any doctor."

"When she came to your house you did not hesitate to do her bidding."

"A most efficient and dedicated nurse."

"She was a mother, nurse and doctor combined."

"Supposing there was a blizzard, you could still depend on Nurse Dubbin to come."

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"She not only carried drugs in her bag, but often a treat such as a jar of preserves or crackers."

"I think she was THE person during the years she was in the Pier.

"She was just as capable as any doctor."
"When she came to your
"I think she was THE person during the years she was in the Pier.

When asked what the piest day of her life was Dubbin replied, "The d received notification th had passed my mi exams."

Asked if she had to a all over again would make any changes, "N wouldn't change a thing," said.

Retiring in 1946, Miss

Retiring in 1946, Miss

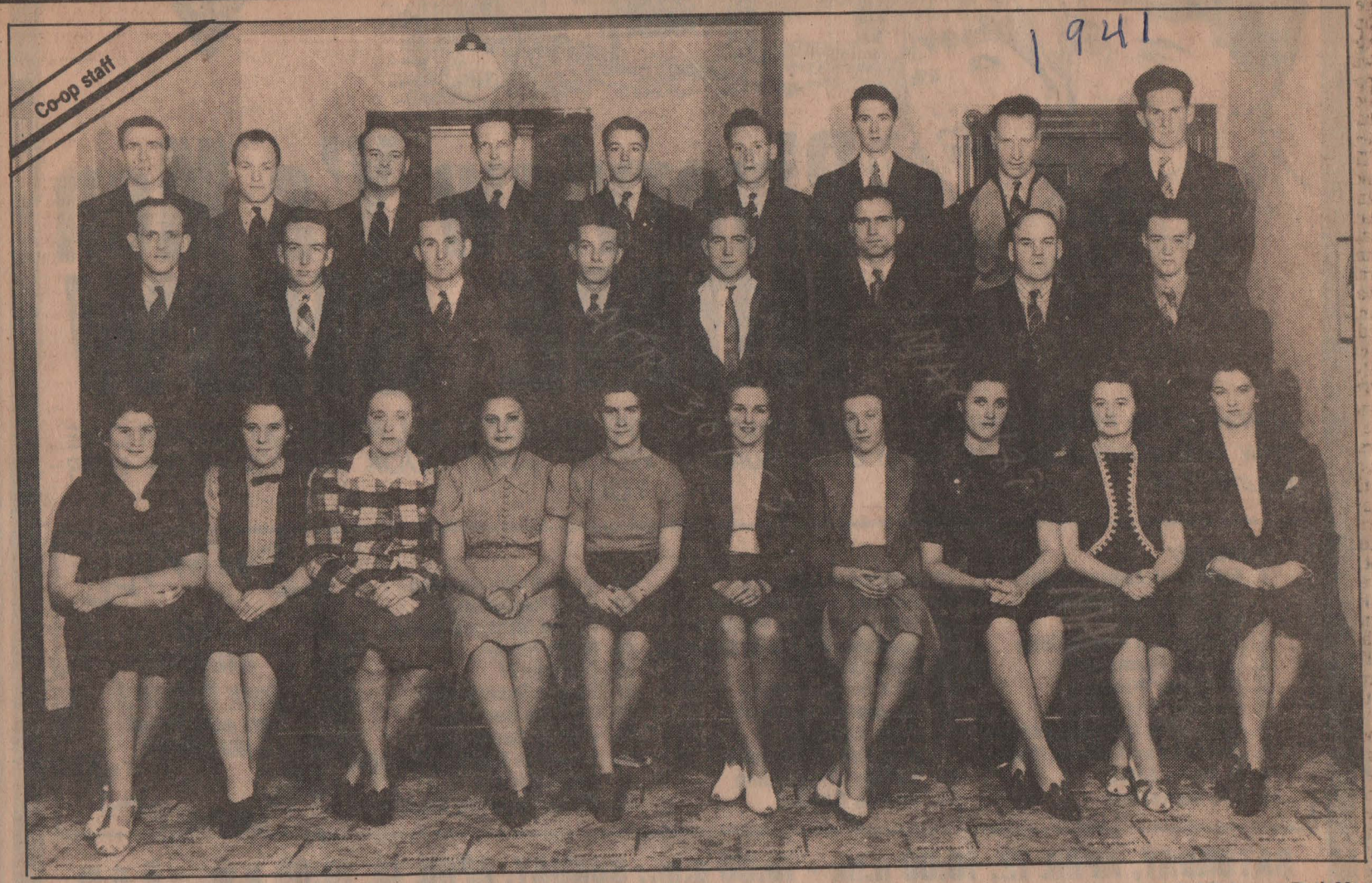
bin left Cape Breton and up residence in Saskat wan. She was not happy, upon receipt of a letter f a friend in Cape Breton ad ing her to "come home wh your friends are" — hom Whitney Pier she came.

"The best piece of ad I ever took," she stated.

At 89 years of age Ma Dubbin is quite active. helps out daily in the din

Co-op staff

1941



The year was 1941. The fledgling Sydney Co-op Society gathered the staffs of its three stores — Bentinck, Prince and Victoria Road — on an April afternoon for this group photo which is still a prized possession of John A. MacDougall of Yendys Street.

MacDougall, who later ran his own store on Argyle Street for 36 years, recalls that clerking in a grocery store in 1941 was a far cry from working in the automated, self-service outlets of today.

"The orders were taken mainly by phone, or dropped in at the store and copied by clerks who also made up the orders. Sometimes people would wait for the order to be made up, other times they'd be delivered later that day or the next."

"To be a good clerk you'd have to have a good memory because prices were seldom marked on the goods like they are today. You also had to know something about quality and grading. Quite a difference from today's stores where the customers are the clerks," recalled MacDougall.

The staff members, many of whom have passed on in the 45 years since the photo was taken, are, from the left, front: Mary MacDougall, Bernie Campbell, Sadie MacLean, Jennie Lake, Florence Matheson, Jean MacAulay, Dougie MacMaster, Mabel Falconer, Ruth Morrison and Margaret MacMullin. Second Row, from the left: Hugh Johnston, Dannie White, John A. MacDougall, Malcolm MacKinnon, Pius MacDonald, Harold Oates, George Saunders and Harold Pledge. Third Row, from the left: Rod Black, Howie Redmond, Vincent Martin, Ralph Dunham, Remi MacPherson, Nick Dawson, Charlie Morrison, Eddy Leonard and Frank MacInnis.

# Friends of Whitney Pier Historical Society

## Public Lecture Series

"Off to Sydney:
Newfoundlanders Emigrate To Cape Breton"

by

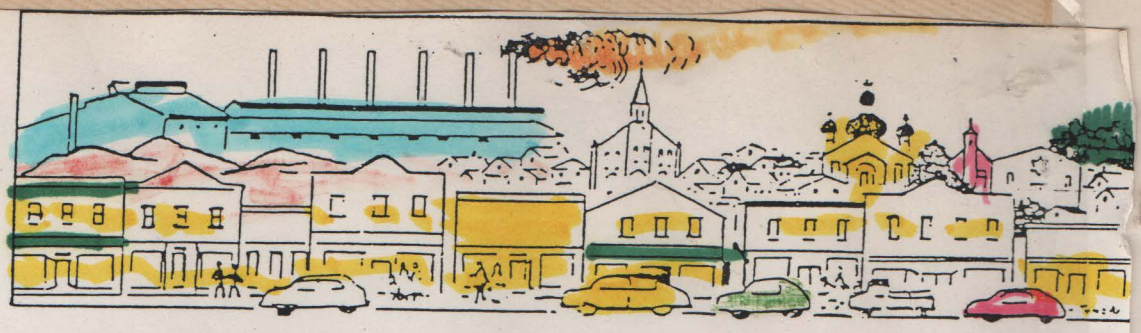
Ron Crawley
Carleton University

THURSDAY - MARCH 16,1989

7:30 PM

OLD SYNAGOGUE ON MT. PLEASANT ST.

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND



# Friends of Whitney Pier

AND

# The Beaton Institute

## Public Lecture Series

"Cultural Survival in the New Land:
Ukrainian Settlement in Canada"

by

Professor John C. Lehr
Geography Dept. University of Winnipeg

FRIDAY - APRIL 28, 1989
7:00 PM
OLD SYNAGOGUE ON MT. PLEASANT ST.

**ADDED ATTRACTION**

Performance by the MEMORY LANE SINGRS
STARTING AT 7:00 P.M.

TEA WILL BE SERVED. EVERYONE WELCOME

# Churches by the sea

A-12

by M. Allen Gibson

Campbell photo

**Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church, Sydney**

In 1901, at the age of 21, Nicholas Fedora arrived in Sydney. He was the first Ukrainian to make a home in the city. In 1904, 1907, and 1912, groups of Ukrainians came, most of them finding work in the steel industry.

They brought with them a form of faith and worship which was new to Nova Scotia. They were Catholic but they belonged to that division of the Church generally known as "Eastern" and in their worship they used the Byzantine rite, the chief rite of Eastern Orthodoxy.

Desiring a church of their own in their new neighbourhood, a group of the newcomers met on May 22, 1912, at the Whitney Pier home of Michael Fedora. At that time, they organized a "Brotherhood of the Holy Ghost" that they might further their aim of building a Ukrainian Catholic church in Sydney.

A committee was appointed to find a suitable site and in August, 1912, land at the corner of Swan and West streets was purchased. Meetings were being held in the homes, a situation far from satisfactory because of the size of the fellowship. At a gathering on October 16, 1912, for example, there were 80 members present.

At that meeting, a building committee was appointed. Its membership included J. Schelar, M. Marenick, M. Swistun, S. Kuchinak, John Bihun, and John Lazyo.

On Sunday, November 17, 1912, the first Byzantine Rite Mass in Sydney was celebrated by Rev. Cyril Yarme who came from Montreal for the occasion. Holy Redeemer church was the scene of that memorable event.

On the following day, November 18, 1912, work was commenced on the church. The men of the congregation, after their shifts at the steel plant, began the work of excavation. It required a week to prepare the 32 by 62 foot area for the foundation. There was very little money available but each family faithfully contributed the 50 or 25-cent weekly offering which was the membership fee of the Brotherhood of the Holy Ghost.

The first Ukrainian priest to serve in Sydney was Rev. Volodmyr Venyaraski who arrived in mid-December, 1912, and remained there until March, 1913. He was succeeded by Rev. Yavhan Kracitske for whom a glebe house was purchased in 1913 and who gave fine leadership both in the church and in the community.

Father Kracitski led his people faithfully through the years of the first World War when particular difficulties confronted the Ukrainian people. He was succeeded by Rev. Nicholas Shumski in 1926.

Rev. Nicholas Bartman was there for only two years but during that time, in May, 1933, the church was destroyed by fire. His was the leadership under which the present church was erected. A new hall was completed in 1962.

One of the noteworthy features of Ukrainian worship is the music. Singing, usually without accompaniment, the church choirs are well trained. When the city of Sydney observed its 150th anniversary in 1935, a float prepared by the people of Holy Ghost church and its choir won first prize.

The longest pastorate in the story of the church was that of Rev. Constantine Zarsky who served there from 1940 to 1970. The first priest ordained from Holy Ghost parish was Rev. John Tataryn who was ordained in May, 1959.

*Next week: Pentecostal Holiness Church, Baylston*

# Ordination to be celebrated

Rev. Leo B. Sears, chaplain of St. Joseph's Convent in Mabou, is celebrating his 65th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. Father Sears recently celebrated his 94th birthday. He continues to serve as chaplain for the sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame missioned at St. Joseph's Convent where he daily celebrates the Eucharist.

**Rev. Leo B. Sears**

Father Sears was born in Lochaber, Antigonish County on Feb. 24, 1895. He received his early education in that community. In 1908 he began studies at what was then St. Francis Xavier School and College. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1915. Since his graduation Father Sears has been a dedicated alumnus and loyal supporter of his Alma Mater, St. Francis Xavier University.

In the fall of 1915 he became a teacher at St. Francis Xavier, replacing Angus L. Macdonald, the man who later became premier of Nova Scotia. In December of that year Sears enlisted in the First World War.

Following his tour of duty he registered at Oxford University in England. He graduated in 1920 with his Master of Arts Degree in Sociology. Having made his decision to study for the priesthood, he was sent by Bishop Morrison, to study at the Scots College in Rome. He was ordained to the priesthood in Rome, April 5, 1924.

In 1925, Father Sears began a 14-year teaching career at St. Francis Xavier. During these years he distinguished himself as a Professor of Classics and as an athletic coach. He enlisted in the Second World War but ill health formed him to return home. Two years were to pass before he was fully recovered and able to resume his priestly duties.

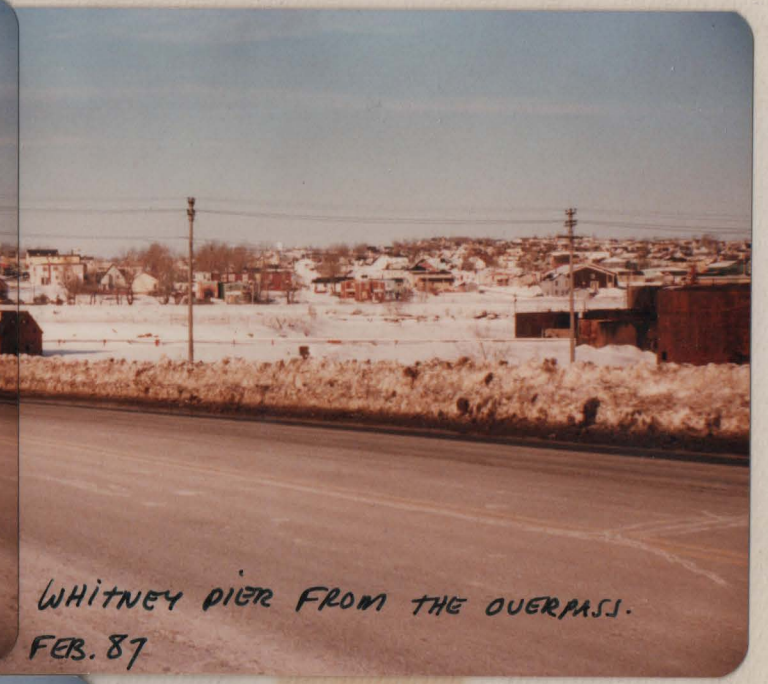
Father Leo was appointed assistant to Father Jimmy Tomkins who was pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Reserve Mines.

In 1944, Father Sears began his distinguished services as pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish in Sydney — a pastorate he would exercise for 23 years. In 1965, Pope Paul VI conferred on him the title of Monsignor by elevating him to the rank of Domestic Prelate.

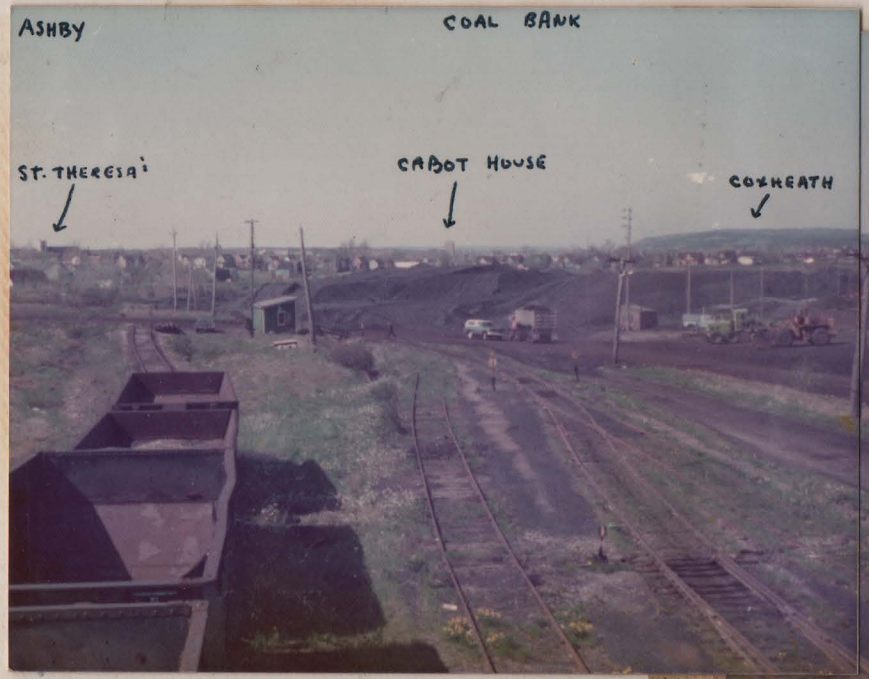
A private celebration is being planned for early in June to mark Father Sears' ordination. Bishop Campbell will join the sisters of St. Joseph's Convent and representatives of the parish and the family of Father Sears in marking this mile stone.

Those wishing to convey greetings to Father Sears could do so by mail, in care of St. Joseph's Convent, Mabou, B0E 1X0

WHITNEY PIER
FROM LINGAN ROAD
TOP OF CHURCH ST.
FEB 1978.



WHITNEY PIER FROM THE OVERPASS.
FEB. 87

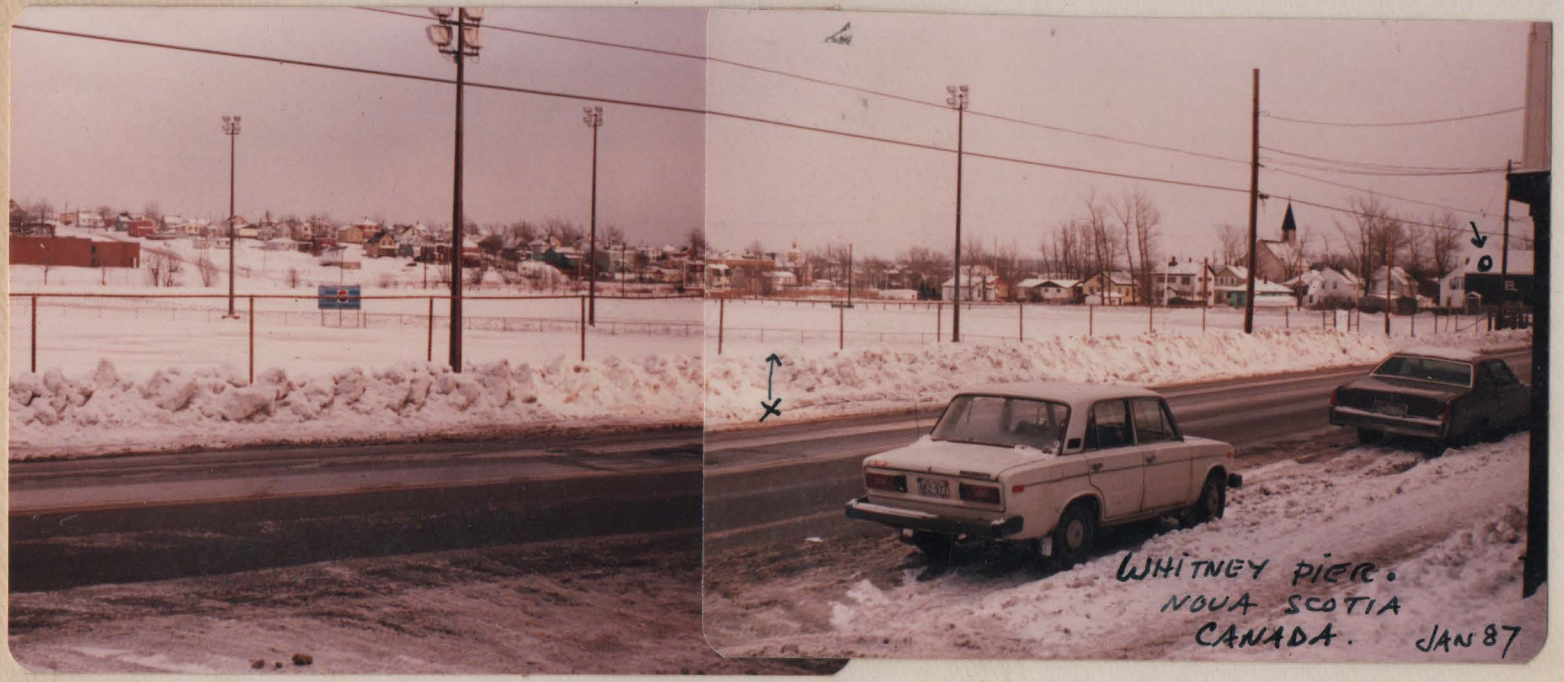

ASHBY
COAL BANK
ST. THERESA'S
CABOT HOUSE
COXHEATH

COKE OVENS DEPT.
MAR.
TEL + TEL

PIER
MODERN CITY DAIRY
POLISH CHURCH

RADAR BASE.

BIG MAC!
6.5 Million


WHITNEY PIER.
NOVA SCOTIA
CANADA. JAN 87

Gerald Ford Frank Barrington

LEO EVANS
BILL WARHAM
ED HILLIER.

SHIRLEY + GORDIE MAC DOUGALL

W. Pic Info. Centre.
Jan 89

Feb. 6/89.

Bean Supper
Oct. 89

"ALONG CAME H.M. WHITNEY"
W. Pict HISTORICAL SOC.
FEB. 89.

HOLY ~~RA~~ ROSARY CONVENT BEFORE THE 1900

WHITNEY PIER
THEN & NOW

FEB 6/89
HFX H.

112th Bn

**This machine gunner was one of the few black Canadian soldiers allowed to serve in the front lines during the First World War. Local historian Calvin Ruck of Dartmouth, author of *The Black Battalion 1916-1920, Canada's Best Kept Military Secret*, a history of the all-black No. 2 Construction Battalion, is trying to track down this man's identity. The man served with the 112th (Nova Scotia) Battalion's machine gun detachment, but the battalion was broken up in France and its members sent to other units as reinforcements.**

Picture was in Mail-Star about Nov 1st
Courtesy of Jamieson & Cameron

12/88

~~Ottawa~~ VICTORIA TRINITY CHURCH

RAY "CUT" KIELY JOHN TYNSKI CHARLIE DAWE

# Pier C. Y. W. Entry In Juvenile League

One of the top teams in the Sydney Minor Hockey Association's juvenile division are Pat Boyle's Pier C.Y.W. squad, shown above. Coach Boyle is on the right in the second row. The Pier boys lost their first game in three to St. Thomas Friday night 6-3. after the season's best display. They will be tough to beat out for honors.

Front Row - Danny Boyack - Dewar Venette
Charlie Piercy * Val Depenth * Ray Wall † AUG 21/95
Back Row (Joe Melanoshi?) - Ray George, Gordie McInnis
— Goss - Jim MacDonald - Joe Siguit
Ben McMullin? - Wilson Clark * - Babe Davis
Pat Boyle

STICK BOY LEO EVANS - missing

DONATED by RAY WALL

RAY "WALLY" DIED ON AUG. 21/95

**LANDMARK DEMOLISHED** — The old Atlantic Hotel, a landmark in Whitney Pier, is being demolished. The property was purchased recently by an oil firm. (Abbass Photo)

## LANDMARK DEMOLISHED

nity Church Hall, a Whit- demolished to make room for a new Nova Scotia Liquor Commission Store.
Pier landmark, is being (Abbass Ph

SYDNEY POST-RECORD, TUESDAY, MAY 28, 1940

# ks Firmer As Busin

## At Well Baby Conference

CAN YOU IDENTIFY ANY OF THE PEOPLE IN PHOTOGRAPH?

...N. "Well Baby Conference" on Thursdays at the Community House, Whitney Pier. ...week children from infancy to school age, are brought ...eir mothers for a thorough check-up and advice as to their ... A similar conference is held ...kly in the Presbyterian church hall, Brookland street, with the blue uniformed nurses (Victorian Order of Nurses) in charge.

**PLANES OVER SWEDEN**

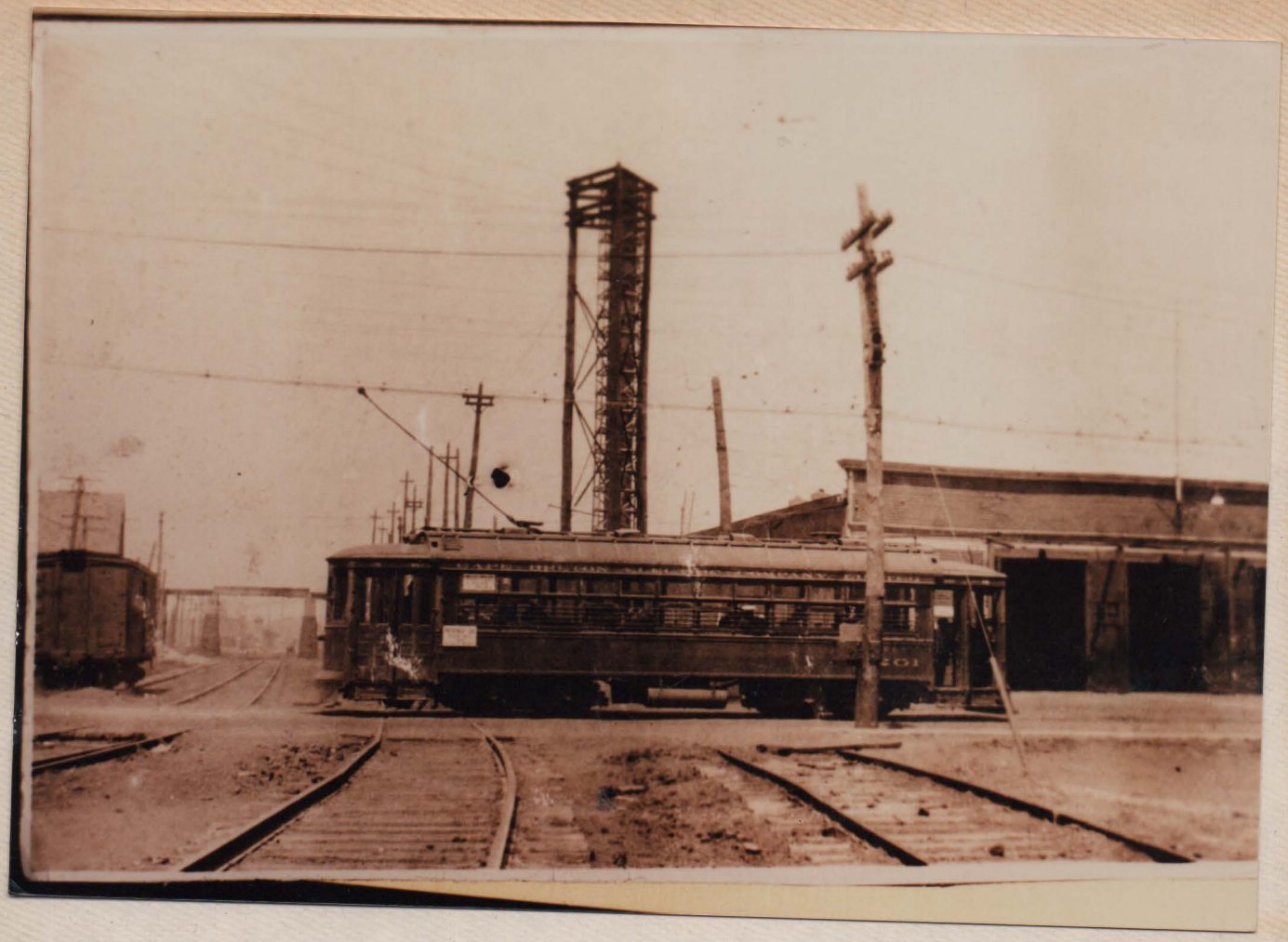
STOCKHOLM, May 27—Anti-aircraft guns opened fire at several points today as foreign war planes flew low over northern Sweden. The planes fled toward Norway.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

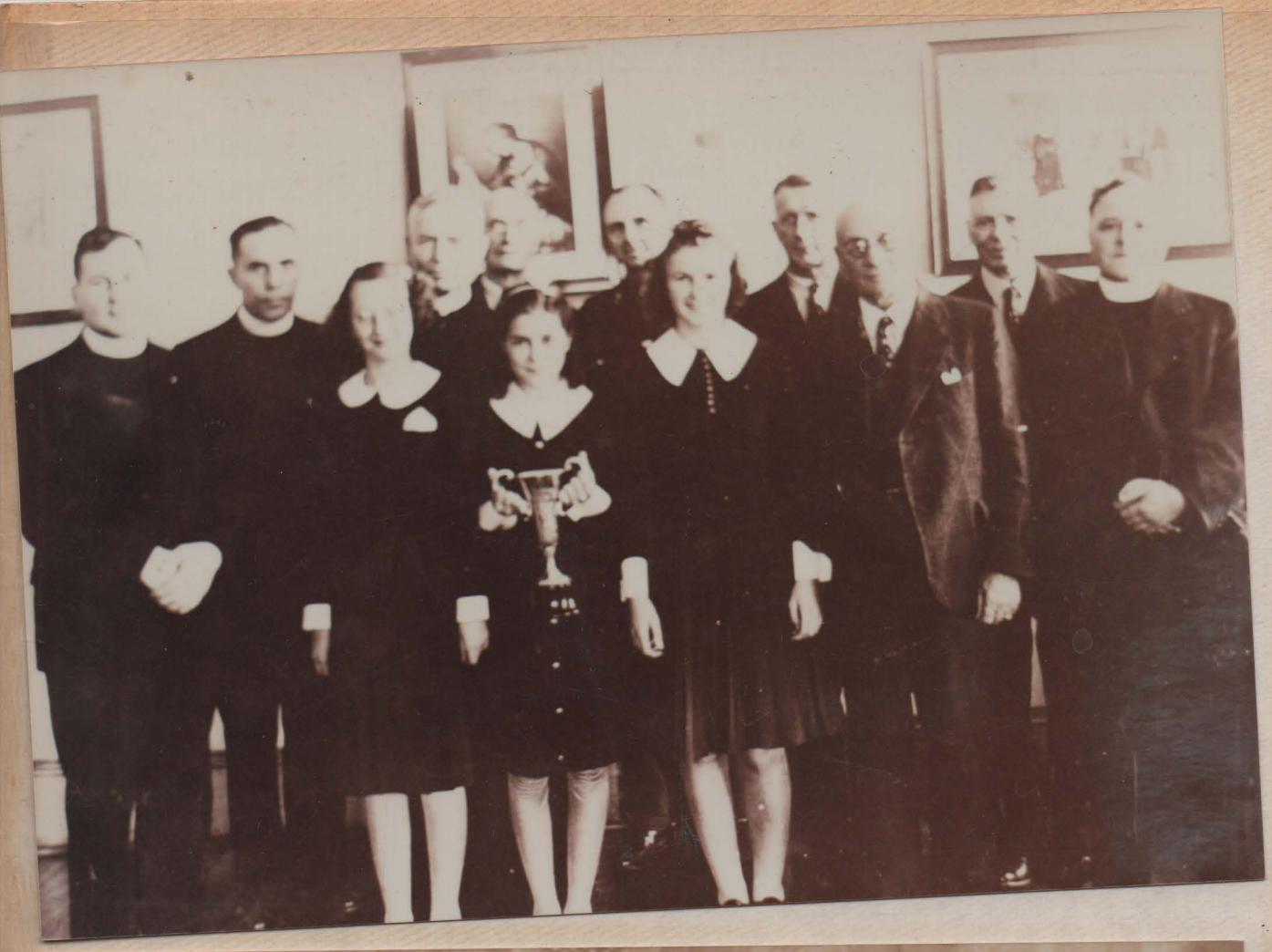
## *U. S. Ambulance Driver Missing*

## National Day Of Prayer Observed In Victoria County

BADDECK, May 27—Presbyterian churches in Victoria county today loyally obeyed the Royal Proclamation to observe a National Day of Prayer when regular church services were held, with splendid congregation present, at Middle River, Big Glen and Knox church, Baddeck, the Rev. A. W. R. MacKenzie officiating and Rev.



LOCAL
IDO
GARS



Looking N Nancy St

Leo Cyca - Mike Kowalchuk & Jim Binns

John Demoke, at entry from Ontario & Quebec

Sydney Ship Supply

JUNIOR HOLY NAME SOFTBALL TEAM 1944.

FR: FRONT ROW: MICKIE MOSS (MASCOT) JIMMIE DAWSON (S.S.), FRANK ADAMO (F.S.), GEO DONOVAN (L.F.) ROGER LAKE (2ND B), SONNY ROSS-(C.), WATSON ~~CLARKE~~ CLARKE (PITCHER)
BACK ROW: BERNIE FERNLA, PAT FOGARTY (COACH), JIM HEDLEY (2ND B.) LEO DAVIS (PITCHER), BILL FEWER (MANAGER), TOM DUFF (CATCHER), RONALD DALTON-(C.F.), & TED SHIRAK, 3RD BASE
EARL BRADLEY (R.F.), 5TH FROM LEFT.

Judy Crotch  Sheila Mullins

SID ROSSITER  PHONSE VESSOME  CHARLIE (GA-GA) MacMILLAN  CHARLIE BALDWIN.

Dolena (MacDonald) Hunt, Lungren Rd.
Lines in oldest house on Lungren

Chicken N Rice AT ST. Philips

Isabella waterman
Kin Best

Helen Naranjo

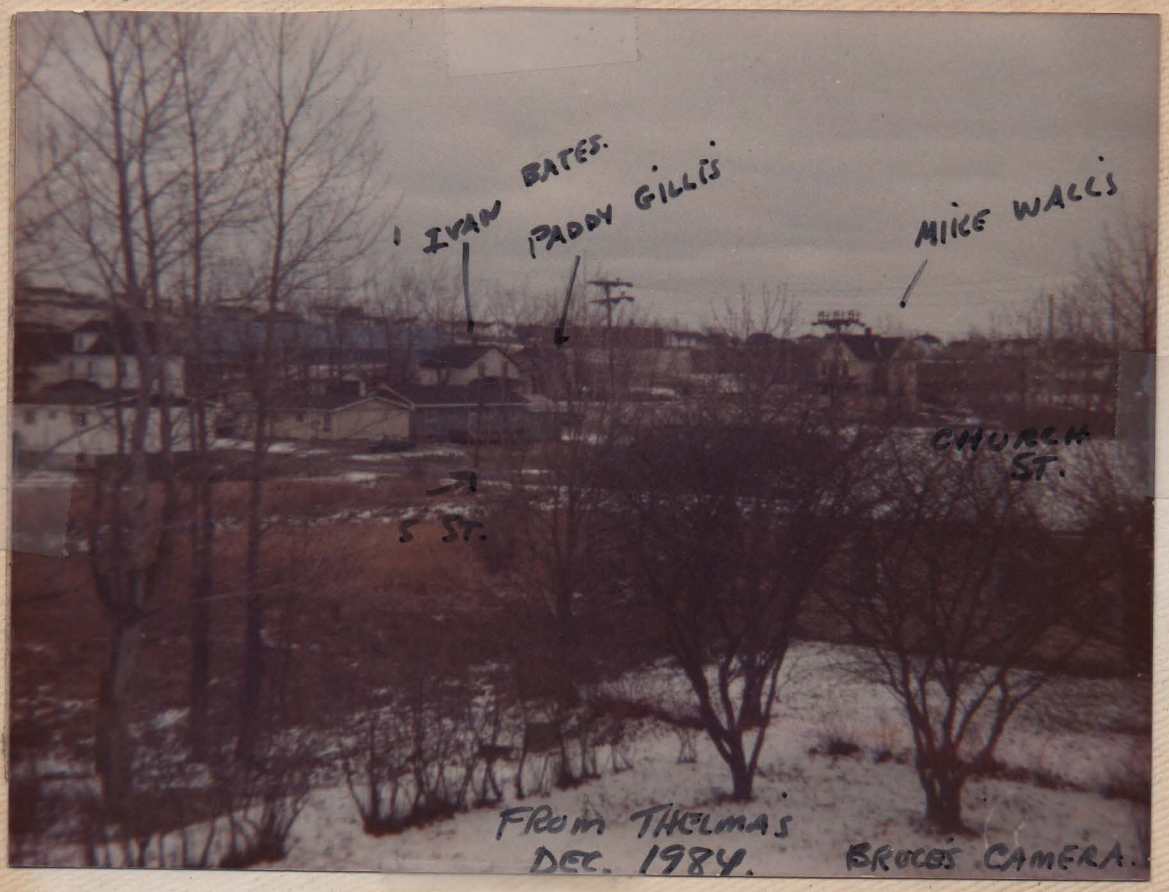
Monica Brooms

c. 1912

Bessie Brooks & Baby.

SID MacMILLAN
DOM. ST.

Mayor Dany Gallagher 1951 1955



- JUNIOR HOLY NAME SOFTBALL TEAM 1944 -

L to R: FRONT ROW: HICKIE MOSS (MASCOT) JOHNNIE DAWSON (S.S.), FRANK ROMKO (F.S.), GEO DONOVAN (L.F.) ROGER LAKE (2nd B), SONNY ROSS - (C.), WILSON ~~BUTCHER~~ CHARLE (PITCHER)
BACK ROW: BERNIE FRENCH, PAT FOGARTY (COACH), JIB HEALEY (SUB.) LEO DAVIS (PITCHER), BILL FEWER (MANAGER), TOM PUTT (CATCHER), RONALD DALTON - (C.F.), & TED SHAVAL, 3rd BASE.
EDEL HEALEY (R.F.), 5th FROM LEFT.

ALONZO CRANE

Oglesby and trout from the Driffield water, East Yorkshire

FRANK McCOOL

MONDAY, MAY 21, 1973.

# Former Goaltender Passes At Age 54

CALGARY (CP) — Frank McCool 54, general manager and assistant publisher of The Albertan who had a brief but memorable fling as a goaltender in the National Hockey League during the Second World War, died Sunday.

He had been ill for some time with cancer. He died at Calgary General Hospital about 11 a.m.

Born in Calgary in October, 1918, McCool received his elementary and secondary education in Calgary, and attended Gonzaga University on Spokane Wash.

He joined The Albertan as a copy boy in the sports department and played minor hockey

in consecutive games against Detroit Red Wings in the final—an NHL playoff record that still stands.

Ulcers brought McCool's NHL career to a premature end during the 1945-46 season.

McCool took a job as a night watchman in Calgary after he left hockey but the late Max Bell, publisher of The Albertan, asked him to come back to the morning newspaper.

editor, moved up to sports edi-

He became assistant sports tor in 1949, was appointed general manager in 1957 and assistant publisher in 1969.

WORKED WITH YOUTH

Walter ook
Gerard.
MacNeil

Kay
MacDonald

Ruddichon

Dannie Antinello
Peggy MacDougall
Alex Montemarquette
Wall Young
Ann Walker

Earl O Callaghan
Jim Keough
Tarp Welch
Charlie Audery Parson
Hopkins

WASH PLANT OPERATION
AT VICTORIA JCT.
(DEVCO RY.)

Ex Evans Est Nee Lennan Margaret Lennan
Eyé Estes Parkers Mary Evans Stalker

No 3 BLAST FURNACE
331,000 Tons
OF IRON - 1968.